GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3710
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2004
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE FOR EXPANSION/MODERNISATION OF PROJECTS
Gandhi Smt. Maneka

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ministry of Environment and Forests by its Notification No. S.O. 60(E) dated January 27, 1994 had prohibited expansion or modernization or setting up of new projects including commencement of construction, unless the project had been accorded environmental clearance from the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether a number of units or projects have been expanded or modernized without obtaining environmental clearance in violation of the said Notification;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the ministry decided to extend the period and permit such defaulting units to apply for environmental clearance by March 31, 1999 and then June 30, 2001 and thereafter March 31, 2003;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the number of defaulting units which had applied for environmental clearance on or before March 31, 2003?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a): Under the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification of 27th January, 1994 and subsequent amendments thereof, thirty-two categories of new developmental projects, or expansion or modernization of any existing project are required to obtain prior environmental clearance from the Government. For deciding applicability of EIA Notification to such projects, a threshold limit of investment for certain categories has been prescribed in the Notification.

(b) & (c) : As per the information provided by the various State Pollution Control Boards about 312 units were operating without prior environmental clearance in the country as on January 2003 and the State-wise details are as follows.

Sl.No. Name of the State No. of units

1. Andhra Pradesh 140

2. Gujarat 43

3. Haryana 10

4. Karnataka 6

5. Kerala 4
6. Madhya Pradesh 3

7 Maharashtra 20

8. Punjab 9

9. Rajasthan 4
10. Tamil Nadu 45
11. Uttar Pradesh 3
12. West Bengal 25

Total	312

(d) & (e) : Initially, the time limit to apply for environmental clearance by the defaulting units was 31.3.1999. Subsequently the time limit was extended upto June 30, 2001 and finally upto 31.3.2003 keeping in view that the defaulting units had to undertake preparation of EIA Report and completion of public hearing as per the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 1994.

(f) : The Government had received 465 proposals for ex-post facto environmental clearance by 31st March 2003, of which 249 are in industry sector and 216 in mining sector.